

Amendments to the Specification:

Immediately before paragraph [0007] please delete the following section title line:

~~Problems that the Invention is to Solve~~

Please replace paragraph [0011] with the following amended paragraph:

[0011] [0006] ~~In accordance with an aspect of the~~ This invention has been thought of in order to solve the problem described above, and has its object to provide a toothbrush, can be provided in which illumination of an interior of an oral cavity enables an assistant to grasp the state of the interior of an oral cavity of a person being assisted, and an uncomfortable strike against the interior of an oral cavity caused by a portion made of a hard material can be prevented as far as possible during brushing.

Immediately before paragraph [0012] please delete the following section title line:

~~Means for Solving the Problem~~

Please replace paragraph [0012] with the following amended paragraph:

[0012] [0007] ~~The above object is attained in~~ In accordance with a first aspect of the invention by a toothbrush ~~comprising~~ can include a head portion formed on a surface thereof with a brush portion, a toothbrush body, and a shaft that connects the head portion and the toothbrush body, the toothbrush body being provided with light emitting means to irradiate light toward the head portion, the shaft being structured to permit the light to transmit or pass therethrough, at least a

surface of the head portion being formed with an elastic portion, and a tip end of the head portion being not formed with the elastic body and thereby provided with a tip-end light transmitting portion.

Please replace paragraph **[0013]** with the following amended paragraph:

[0013] [0008] ~~With the constitution~~ In accordance with the first aspect of the first invention, an elastic body is formed on a surface of a head portion inserted into an oral cavity of a person being assisted and subjected to brushing. Here, a head portion in the structure of a toothbrush is formed from a relatively hard material under the necessity of transplantation of bristles on a brush portion. Therefore, there is a fear that a portion made of a hard material can strike against a tooth, etc. in an oral cavity during brushing to cause direct transmission of a shock and vibrations, which accompany the tooth brushing operation, but the provision of an elastic portion to cover the elastic body effectively avoids such inconvenience and causes no uncomfortable feeling and injury. Besides, light from the tip-end light transmitting portion on the head portion inserted into an oral cavity of a person being assisted illuminates, in particular, a deep side in the oral cavity, and combines with a light reflection effect in the oral cavity to be able to illuminate the interior of the oral cavity, which is spatially small and light from outside is hard to reach, so that an assistant can very easily perform the work of brushing teeth while visually recognizing them. Further, since the light transmitting portion is arranged on the tip end of the head portion, the brush portion can be placed in an appropriate position by shining light while leftovers, etc. remaining on teeth are beforehand visually recognized.

Please replace paragraph **[0014]** with the following amended paragraph:

[0014] [0009] In accordance with a A second aspect of the invention ~~adds to the constitution of the first invention a feature that~~ the surface of the head portion, on which the brush portion is provided, is not formed with the elastic portion and thereby formed with a brush-portion light transmitting portion, and at least a part of a surface opposed to the surface of the head portion is not formed with the elastic body and thereby provided with a back-surface light transmitting portion.

Please replace paragraph **[0015]** with the following amended paragraph:

[0015] ~~With the constitution~~ In accordance with the second aspect of the second-invention, light from the light transmitting portion on the brush portion illuminates an object being brushed whereby it is possible to perform an operation while recognizing teeth being brushed. Further, since light from the back-surface light transmitting portion illuminates an interior of an oral cavity, a sense of incongruity given to teeth is decreased and the operation of brushing teeth is easy to perform while illuminating the whole interior of an oral cavity appropriately bright.

Please replace paragraph **[0016]** with the following amended paragraph:

[0016] [0010] In accordance with a A third aspect of the invention ~~adds to the constitution of the second invention a feature that~~ the elastic body is formed on at least a part of outer peripheries of sides of the head portion and in a substantially central region of the opposed surface except the back-surface light transmitting portion.

Please replace paragraph **[0017]** with the following amended paragraph:

[0017] ~~With the constitution~~ In accordance with the third aspect of the ~~third~~ invention, since the elastic body particularly covers locations, which are liable to strike against an interior of an oral cavity, as in the case where an opposite surface of the head portion is liable to strike against a tooth on a side opposed to a tooth being subjected to brushing when clenching surfaces of teeth are to be brushed, and in the case where sides of the head portion are liable to strike against other teeth when surfaces and back sides of teeth are to be brushed, it is possible to effectively prevent an uncomfortable strike against an interior of an oral cavity caused by a hard material while maintaining the necessary illumination effect.

Please replace paragraph **[0018]** with the following amended paragraph:

[0018] [0011] In accordance with a ~~A~~ fourth aspect of the invention ~~adds to the constitution of the third invention a feature that~~ the back-surface light transmitting portion is formed to have a cross section thereof curved from an outer periphery of a back surface of the head portion to a part of the outer peripheries of the sides, and surfaces of the elastic body project from surfaces of the respective light transmitting portions.

Please replace paragraph **[0019]** with the following amended paragraph:

[0019] ~~With the constitution~~ In accordance with the fourth aspect of the ~~fourth~~ invention, since the elastic body functioning as a cushion projects from the light transmitting portion formed from a hard material, it is possible to effectively prevent that uncomfortable strike against teeth or the like in an oral cavity, which is caused by a hard material. Besides, since the back-surface light transmitting portion is formed to assume a curved surface, the operation is made easy without

bringing the relatively hard light transmitting portion into contact with teeth or the like, even in case of various motions such as vertical rolling of the head portion or the like in the brushing operation, etc. are conducted.

Please replace paragraph **[0020]** with the following amended paragraph:

[0020] [0012] In accordance with a fifth aspect of the invention ~~adds to the constitution of any one of the first to fourth inventions a feature that~~ the elastic body forms a shaft elastic body on the shaft in the vicinity of the head portion, and a surface of the shaft elastic body opposed to the surface is not formed with the elastic body and thereby provided with a shaft light transmitting portion.

Please replace paragraph **[0021]** with the following amended paragraph:

[0021] ~~With the constitution~~ In accordance with the fifth aspect of the ~~fifth~~ invention, for example, in the case where a person being assisted closes one's mouth with disgust, it is possible to effectively illuminate a side being brushed while preventing direct touch at a hard material when teeth bite the shaft.

Please replace paragraph **[0023]** with the following amended paragraph:

[0023] [0014] ~~Also, the above object is attained~~ in accordance with a sixth aspect of the invention ~~by a toothbrush comprising~~ can include a head portion formed on a surface thereof with a brush portion, a toothbrush body, and a shaft that connects the head portion and the toothbrush body, the toothbrush body being provided with light emitting means to irradiate light toward the head portion, the shaft being structured to permit the light to transmit or pass

therethrough, at least a surface of the head portion being formed with an elastic portion, and the elastic body being formed from a transparent material.

Please replace paragraph **[0024]** with the following amended paragraph:

[0024] [0015] ~~With the constitution of~~ In accordance with the sixth aspect of the sixth invention, the elastic body is formed on a surface of the head portion inserted into an oral cavity of a person being assisted and subjected to brushing. Here, the head portion in the structure of a toothbrush is formed from a relatively hard material under the necessity of transplantation of bristles on the brush portion. Therefore, there is a fear that a portion made of a hard material can strike against a tooth, etc. in an oral cavity during brushing to cause direct transmission of a shock and vibrations, which accompany the tooth brushing operation, but the provision of the elastic portion formed as by covering of the elastic body effectively avoids such inconvenience and causes no uncomfortable feeling and injury.

Please replace paragraph **[0032]** with the following amended paragraph:

[0032] Furthermore, ~~the above object is attained by~~ an exchange toothbrush ~~comprising~~ can include a head portion formed on a surface thereof with a brush portion and a shaft, the shaft being mounted to and dismounted from a toothbrush body, the shaft being structured to permit light to transmit or pass therethrough, the head portion being formed on at least a surface thereof with an elastic portion, and a tip end of the head portion being not formed with the elastic body and thereby provided with a tip-end light transmitting portion.

Please replace paragraph **[0033]** with the following amended paragraph:

[0033] Alternatively, ~~the above object is attained by an exchange toothbrush comprising~~ can include a head portion formed on a surface thereof with a brush portion and a shaft, the shaft being mounted to and dismounted from a toothbrush body, the shaft being structured to permit light to transmit or pass therethrough, the head portion being formed on at least a surface thereof with an elastic portion, and the elastic portion being formed from a transparent material.

Please replace the sub-title immediately prior to paragraph **[0034]** with the following amended subtitle:

~~BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION~~

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Please replace paragraph **[0035]** with the following amended paragraph:

[0035] In addition, since embodiments described below ~~constitute preferred concrete~~ include concrete examples of the invention, they involve various ~~technically preferable limitations but technical features. However,~~ the invention is not limited in scope to these embodiments ~~unless the invention is specifically described to be limitative in the following description.~~

Please replace paragraph **[0056]** with the following amended paragraph:

[0056] [0027] In addition, in case of use for infant, the shaft is required to have a small outside diameter so as not to give a sense of incongruity in an oral cavity and the shaft 25 is ~~preferably~~ can be formed to be solid with the use of a transparent material, while in case of a

toothbrush used for assistance in nursing, the shaft 25 may be formed from an opaque material to have a relatively large outside diameter and to be cylindrical and hollow inside, thus providing for light transmission.

Please replace paragraph **[0114]** with the following amended paragraph:

[0114] In addition, in this case, a shaft-side removable portion 28 on the shaft 25 is ~~preferably~~ can be structured to be able to be surely fixed to the body 11 by integral molding with a hard material and adopting a more sure fixing method.